DOE F 1325.8 e Electronic Form Approved by CGIR - 01/20/95
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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 20, 2002

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-76) - (Toledo-Wendson # 1 access road and structure clearing)

TO: Benjamin Tilley
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management for the Toledo-Wendson # 1 transmission line.

Location: Half the line is located in the Lane County, Oregon and half is located in Lincoln County, Oregon.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: This project is intended to stunt alder, noxious weeds, and other tall growing species growing on access roads and in tower sites to the point of elimination without the use of herbicides. For access roads, the goal is to encourage only native and non-invasive grass species to provide a clear path for transportation

Analysis: Please see the attached checklist for the resources present. Applicable findings and mitigation measures are discussed below.

Planning Steps:

1. ***Vegetation management need.***

   The work will take place on Toledo-Wendson # 1 230 kV transmission line right-of-way for access road clearing and transmission structure clearing of alder, noxious weeds, and other tall growing species. The proposed treatment will be performed in designated areas along the ROW with an easement width of 125 feet. See attached checklist and documents for exact locations of treatment within the 53 miles of corridor.

2. ***Identify surrounding land use and landowners/managers and any mitigation.***

   The subject corridor passes through rural, industrial forestlands and Siuslaw National Forest. Form letters will be sent to applicable landowners several weeks prior to job start date. The NRS has had an official meeting with Robert Kentta, Cultural Resource Director for the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians and the tribe recommended using mechanical plant removal during water-stressed times to reduce the need for follow-up herbicide use.

3. Identify natural resources and any mitigation.

Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet Critical Habitat Units were identified in sections of the Toledo-Wendson #1ROW. Mitigation measures to assure no affect on these T & E species are described in Section 3.3 of the checklist.

No Known cultural resources are present. The work will not cause any soil distruburance, therefore cultural resources, if present, will be affected (see Section 3.6).

4. Determine vegetation control and debris disposal methods.

Mechanical removal of vegetation with debris being scattered to prevent increased fire hazards

5. Determine re-vegetation methods, if necessary.

Re-vegetation is not necessary for this project.

6. Determine monitoring needs.

TLM line crew will inspect roads this winter during working patrol. NRS will patrol roads and tower sites 1 to 3 times in the next 18 months.

7. Prepare appropriate environmental documentation.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds that 1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; 2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shawn L. Barndt
Shawn Barndt
Environmental Physical Scientist

CONCUR: */s/ Thomas C. McKinney* DATE: 06/28/2002
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment

cc:
L. Croff – KEC-4
T. McKinney – KEC-4
M. Hermeston – KEP-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4
B. Sherer – KEP-4
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
P. Key – LC-7
M. Johnson – TF/DOB-1
A. DelaCruz – TFE/Alvey
T. Jones – TFE/Alvey
G. Burbach – TFEF/Alvey
M. Newbill – TFE/Chemawa
Environmental File – KEC
Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

Sbarndt:sb:4722:06/26/02 (KEP-KEPR-4-W:\EP\2002 FILES\EQ\EQ-14\FEIS-0285-SA-76-Toledo-Wendson #1 access roads.doc)

Vegetation Management Checklist

1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED

1.1 Describe Right-of-way.

See attached sheet for exact locations for treatment.

Corridor Name	Corridor Length & kV	Easement width	Miles of Treatment
Toledo-Wendson #1	53 miles 230 kV	125'	47 miles

See Handbook — **List of Right-of-way Components** for checkboxes and the requirements for the components **Rights-of-way**, **Access Roads**, **Switch Platforms**, **Danger Trees**, and **Microwave Beam paths**.

Access road clearing: approximate miles→ 72 miles (215 acres)
Transmission Structures: clearing around

1.2 Describe the vegetation needing management.

See handbook — **List of Vegetation Types**, **Density**, **Noxious Weeds** for checkboxes and requirements.

Vegetation Types: Alder

Density: high (250+ stems/acre)

Noxious Weeds: Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, tansy ragwort, thistle (various spp.)

1.3 List measures you will take to help promote low-growing plant communities. If promoting low-growing plants is not appropriate for this project, explain why.

See Handbook — for requirements and checkboxes.

This project is intended to stunt species growing on access roads to the point of elimination without the use of herbicides. For access roads, the goal is to encourage only native and non-invasive grass species to provide a clear path for transportation.

1.4 Describe overall management scheme/schedule.

See Handbook - **Overall Management Scheme/Schedule**.

Initial entry – The initial entry includes mechanically removing all alder, noxious weeds, and other tall growing species along access roads and in tower sites. Performing this activity when the alder is moisture-stressed is a method recommended by the Forest Service that can significantly reduce the need for follow-up herbicide treatments for alder resprout.

Subsequent entries – This corridor is due for full vegetation control in 18 months. At that time, the NRS will evaluate the effectiveness of the initial entry and determine subsequent actions at that time. An additional round of mechanical removal where the initial entry was not effective would be a potential action at that time.

Future cycles – The initial entry is intended to reduce alder and noxious weeds on access roads and tower sites to the point that the entire ROW, including access roads, can be managed on our standard time-driven cycle without subsequent entries between cycle years to provide access to overgrown roads.

2. IDENTIFY SURROUNDING LAND USE AND LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS

2.1 List the types of landowners and land uses along your corridor.
See Handbook — **Landowners/Managers/Uses** for requirements, and **List of Landowners/Managers/Uses** for a checkbox list.

Rural

Industrial Forest Lands

Forest Service: Siuslaw National Forest

2.2 Describe method for notifying right-of-way landowners and requesting information (i.e., door-hanger, letter, phone call, e-mail, and/or meeting). Develop landowner mail list, if appropriate.
See Handbook — **Methods for Notification and Requesting Information** for requirements.

Form letters will be sent out to all applicable landowners several weeks prior to the job start date. This provides ample time for responses from landowners on specific situations and concerns they may have with our proposed activities.

2.3 List the specific land owner/landuse measures — determined from the handbook or through your consultations with the entities — that will be applied.
See handbook — **Requirements and Guidance for Various Landowners/Uses** for requirements and guidance, also **Residential/Commercial**, **Agricultural**, **Tribal Reservations**, **FS-managed lands**, **BLM – managed lands**, **Other federal lands**, **State/ Local Lands.**.

Span		Landowner/use	Specific measures to be applied
To	From		
		Siuslaw National Forest	Refer to 1.4 and 3.3

2.4 Review any existing landowner agreements (e.g. tree/brush Permits or Agreements). List in table above any provisions that need to be followed and where they are located.
See handbook — **Landowner Agreements** for requirements.

Refer to table above.

2.5 List any known casual informal use of the right-of-way by non-owner publics. List any constraints or measure's to take due to the informal use.
See handbook — **Casual Informal Use of Right-of-way** for requirements.

Siuslaw National Forest: List of indirect publics. Form letters, similar to landowner letters, will be sent out several weeks prior to work starting.

2.6 List other potentially affected people, agencies, or tribes (that are not landowners/managers) that need to be notified or coordinated with. Describe method of notification and coordination.
See handbook — **Other Potentially Affected Publics** for requirements and suggestions.

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians—official meeting w/ Robert Kentta, Cultural Resource Director. The tribe has also recommended we pursue the course of action of mechanical plant removal during water-stressed times to reduce the need for follow-up herbicide use.

3. IDENTIFY NATURAL RESOURCES

See Handbook — **Natural Resources**

3.1 List any water resources (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) that may be impacted by vegetation control activities. For each water body describe the control methods and requirements or mitigation measures that will be used.
See Handbook — **Water Resources** for requirements for working near water resources including buffer zones.

Span		Waterbody	T&E?	Method	Herbicide	Application Technique	Buffer	Other
To	From							
		No water bodies to be adversely affected.	Refer to detail sheet	Mechanical removal of resprouting species on access roads only.	No herbicides will be used in this project.	N/A	50' for machine activity near streams with ESA-listed fish.	Shade-providing plants will be trimmed near water bodies to provide access.

3.2 If planning to use herbicides, list locations of any known irrigation source, wells, or springs (landowners maybe able to provide this info if requested).
See Handbook — **Herbicide Use Near Irrigation, Wells or Springs** for buffers and herbicide restrictions.

Span		Well/irrigation/or spring	Herbicide	Buffer	Other notes/measures
To	From				
		No herbicides will be used on this project.	N/A	N/A	

3.3 List below the areas that have Threatened or Endangered Plant or Animal Species and the name of the species, and any special measures that need to be taken due to their presence. Attach any BAs, T&E maps, or letters from US Fish and Wildlife.
See Handbook — **T&E Plant or Animal Species** for requirements and determining presence.

Span		T&E Species	Method/mitigation or avoidance measures
To	From		
16/3 + 1105' 24\4 + 625' 46\1 + 300'	22\1 + 440' 44\2 46\2 + 650'	Spotted Owl & Marbled Murrelet Critical Habitat Units (CHU's)	Spotted Owl/Marbled Murrelet Critical Habitat Units—refrain from activities above ambient noise levels within .25 miles of species occupancy. ***Nests within .25 miles of ROW:*** Murrelet nest east of tower site 29\1→ No work to be done on TW-AR-29-1 and 29-3 Murrelet nest @ 35\2 midspan→ No access roads within .25 miles of nest.
10\4	51\2		The Forest Service has stated no concerns of T & E plants in the proposed project area (unlikely habitat potential due to elevation and distance from coastline).
			Be aware of north-facing slopes with big leaf maple and sword fern….potential habitat for tall bugbane. If habitat is discovered, work will cease and appropriate entities will be notified.

3.4 List any other measures to be taken for enhancing wildlife habitat or protecting species.

See Handbook — **Protecting Other Species** for requirements.

Span		Species	Measures
To	From		
			Encouragement of grasses will help to improve forage potential for large game along access roads.
			Shade-providing plants near water bodies will be trimmed to help provide clear access along the roads and improve forage diversity without compromising shade potential of the crossing.

3.5 List any visually sensitive areas and the measures to be taken at these areas.
See Handbook — **Visual Sensitive Areas** for requirements.

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
			No visually sensitive areas will be disturbed.

3.6 List areas with cultural resources and the measures to be taken in those areas.
See Handbook – **Cultural Resources** for requirements.

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
			No known cultural resources present. No ground-disturbing activity will occur. If evidence is found of cultural resources (artifacts, features, burial sites), work will cease immediately and the appropriate authorities will be contacted.

3.7 List areas with steep slopes or potential erosion areas and the measure and methods to be applied in those areas.
See Handbook – **Steep/Unstable Slopes** for requirements.

Span		Describe sensitivity	Method/mitigation measures
To	From		
			No steep/unstable slopes will be disturbed.

3.8 List areas of spanned canyons and the type of cutting needed.
See Handbook – **Spanned Canyons** for requirements.

Span		Methods, cutting
To	From	
		No spanned canyons will be disturbed.

4. DETERMINE VEGETATION CONTROL METHODS

See Handbook — **Methods**

4.1 List Methods that will be used in areas not previously addressed in steps above.

See Handbook — **Manual**, **Mechanical**, **Biological**, **Herbicides** for requirements for each of the methods.

Span		**Methods,** including herbicide active ingredient, trade name, application technique
To	From	
1\2	50\3	Mechanical removal of resprout through means of a Posi-Trac ASV mower. This is a rubber-tracked machine exerting less than 10 lbs./in^2 of ground pressure. Chainsaws will be used when the vegetation is out-of-reach of the Posi-Trac. Vegetation will be cut, lopped, and scattered to prevent increased fire hazards.

5. DETERMINE DEBRIS DISPOSAL AND REVEGETATION

5.1 Describe the debris disposal methods to be used and any special considerations.

See Handbook — **Debris disposal** for a checkbox list and requirements.

Mowers will mulch all debris on-site to help stabilize soil and retain existing nutrients and coarse woody debris.

Debris will be cleared fully from access roads and tower sites, then scattered to prevent increased fire hazards.

5.2 List areas of reseeding or replanting (those areas not already described in steps 1, 2, or 3).
See Handbook — **Reseeding/replanting** for requirements.

Span		Reason for Reseed/plant	Type of Seed or Plants	Native?
To	From			
		No reseeding necessary. Grasses are not targeted in this project. Removal of taller vegetation on the access roads will benefit existing grasses through decreased competition.	N/A	N/A

5.3 If not using native seed/plants, describe why.

N/A

5.4 Describe timing and any follow-up that will need to take place to ensure germination/success of seeding/planting.

N/A

6. DETERMINE MONITORING NEEDS

See handbook — **Monitoring** for requirements.

6.1 Describe the follow-up/monitoring cycle that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the vegetation control methods used.

Roads will be inspected by the TLM line crew this winter during working patrol. The NRS will patrol roads and tower sites 1 to 3 times in the next 18 months. Vegetation growth along access roads will be monitored for species content, growth rate, and density.

6.2 Describe any follow-up or monitoring needed to determine if mitigation measures were effective.

Monitoring of road edges and banks for possible erosion, resprouting presence of red alder, noxious weed outbreaks, and vigor of desirable plant growth.

7. PREPARE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

See handbook — **Prepare Appropriate Environmental Documentation** for requirements. Also prepare Supplement Analysis **Supplement Analysis** for signature.

7.1 Describe any potential project impacts or project work that are different than those disclosed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS. Describe how those differences impact natural resources and if the differences are "substantial".

None

7.2 Is there a need for additional NEPA documentation (i.e. Forest Service requirement, Record of Decision, supplemental EIS)? If so, attach.

None